

# NEWSLETTER

## Homebrew Computer Club

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### RANDOM DATA

By Robert Reiling

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**DATES**—The next several meetings are scheduled at SLAC on Wednesdays. This is a better meeting date for many people but is not as satisfactory for some. There will be some Friday meetings this year as well. The complete schedule will be in the next Newsletter. The February and March schedule is listed on page eight.

**SIXTEEN/8**—A sixteen bit machine using the S-100 bus was demonstrated at the December 12th meeting by Dick Wilcox and John French. It appears to be an excellent computer system with outstanding software—time sharing even. You will be hearing more about this machine. For the current status and additional details contact the Orange County Computer Mart in the Los Angeles area. Telephone numbers are (714) 838-1381 or (714) 633-1222.

**COMPUTER NOTES**—Andrea Lewis, editor of the ALTAIR Users Group publication **COMPUTER NOTES**, has sent many copies for distribution at the Club meetings. Thanks to Andrea and MITS for the copies. All of the copies (several hundred) were distributed in what seemed only moments.

**BAMUG**—The Bay Area Microprocessor Users Group Newsletter was issued by Timothy O'Hare, editor and writer, to announce the club's new meeting location and meeting on January 6, 1977. You may want to contact Timothy about future meetings. His address is 1211 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. When writing it will be a good idea to include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

**KILOBAUD**—This magazine was delivered in December and has received excellent comments from readers. I haven't managed to get a copy yet but did get an opportunity to scan a copy at the last club meeting. It appeared full of good stuff. Why don't you send me your comments about KILOBAUD for use in the next Newsletter.

If you don't know, KILOBAUD is published by the same organization that publishes 73, the amateur radio magazine. Wayne Green is the publisher with plenty of experience in the publication business. John Craig is the editor. He has been producing the I/O section in 73 for several months now. Subscriptions are available by writing to KILOBAUD or 73, Peterborough, NH 03458. □

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### MPU SHOPS OPENED BY SEMI SPECS

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Semiconductor Specialists, Inc., an industrial distributor, will now cater to the "Computerists" or home computer enthusiast by establishing twelve MPU Shops at their twelve U.S. branches. The first has opened in the Chicago area at the company headquarters.

The Shops will have working models of five microprocessor kits, three non-assembled kits, plus four additional microprocessor chips not in kit form. Two complete developmental systems will be available. In addition, books, power supplies, tape readers, and accessories in kit form will be carried.

Paul Carroll, president, explains: "The industrial distributor has never really catered to the hobbyist, but always allowed cash sales because many engineers and buyers from industry bought small quantities for their personal use. With the advent of the microprocessor, a whole new market of 'Computerists' has developed. These people are engineers, programmers, and technicians from industry who are learning, designing, and programming microprocessor systems at home. They want a place to browse, read, have hands on practice, and see what they are buying. The MPU Shops will have the advantage of supplying many of the extra transistors or IC's they need to input or output their system. The fact that many of these 'Computerists' will end up designing and specifying a future system for their employer is why Semiconductor Specialists is interested in this growing market." Mail orders as well as credit cards will be accepted by the MPU Shops. Contact Semiconductor Specialists, Inc., P.O. Box 66125, O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Illinois 60666. □

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### NEW JOYSTICK CONSOLE GIVE MORE FLEXIBILITY TO MICROCOMPUTERS

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Cromemco, a leading name in the microcomputer field, has introduced a new 2-axis joystick console that has significant features not found in other joysticks.

For one thing, the new joystick is a console rather

than merely a simple 2-input device.

It is called a console because it includes a speaker and speaker amplifier built into the same housing with the joystick. The speaker greatly enhances the usefulness of this over other joysticks because it facilitates such uses as sound effects for computer and other games—and provides an easy way to obtain such features as acoustic warnings in other applications.

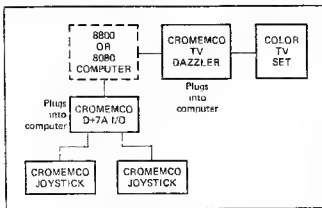
Another interesting feature of the new console is that it includes four pushbutton switches. These can be utilized to add much more flexibility to such applications as using the console for cursor positioning on a color graphics terminal. In such a case the switches can select desired colors.

Cromemco also offers peripherals that simplify application of the joystick. One is a fast 7-channel analog-to-digital I/O card. This unit will directly interface two of the consoles to microcomputers. The I/O is a plug-in card.

Cromemco also offers a color graphics interface known as the TV Dazzler. This unit allows microcomputers to display memory in color on an ordinary color TV set.

The block diagram below shows how readily the new console and other peripherals can be used with a microcomputer to form a complete operating system.

Price of the new console is \$65 in kit form or \$95 in assembled, ready-to-use form. Delivery is 15 - 30 days. For more information, contact: Mr. Joe McCrate, Cromemco, Inc., 2432 Charleston Rd., Mountain View, CA 94043, (415) 964-7400. □



**NIBL FEBRUARY 16, 1977**

NATIONAL BASIC—National Industrial Basic Language, NIBL, will be discussed at the February 16, 1977 Homebrew Computer Club Meeting. Phil Roybal, MP Product Marketing Manager, and an associate, both from National Semiconductor Corp., will present the NIBL story. Perhaps you read about NIBL in recent articles in *INTERFACE AGE* and *DR. DOBB'S JOURNAL*. Look these articles up before

the meeting on the 16th. Phil explains that NIBL is in the public domain and he will have instructions for obtaining NIBL for copying costs. He is expected to announce the future availability of NIBL in ROM. Don't miss this meeting. □

## USEFUL BASIC PROGRAM

By William Martin

This TINY BASIC program was among the first prepared by William Martin on his AMI Proto Board. He needed label to tell people of his new address—so the program. The label is a listing from the program.

:LIST

```
100 LET I=0
110 PRINT
120 PRINT"FIRST LINE OF MESSAGE",
130 LET I=I+1
140 IF 1/3*3<>1 GOTO 120
150 PRINT
160 PRINT"SECOND LINE OF MESSAGE",
170 LET I=I+1
180 IF 1/3*3<>1 GO TO 160
190 PRINT
200 PRINT"THIRD LINE OF MESSAGE",
210 LET I=I+1
220 IF 1/3*3<>1 GOTO200
230 PRINT
240 IF I<27 GO TO 110
250 END
```

:RUN

FIRST LINE OF MESSAGE  
SECOND LINE OF MESSAGE  
THIRD LINE OF MESSAGE

FIRST LINE OF MESSAGE  
SECOND LINE OF MESSAGE  
THIRD LINE OF MESSAGE

FIRST LINE OF MESSAGE  
SECOND LINE OF MESSAGE  
THIRD LINE OF MESSAGE

1

## CASSETTES IN THE HOMEBREW LIBRARY

By Gordon French

There are now cassettes in the Homebrew Library. To make it possible and practical to interchange data and software, and to put to use the experience many

of us have had using cassettes, the library procedure will be as follows:

Library tapes will all be kept on TDK Audua C-60 cassettes. This is a non chromium dioxide tape of high brilliance. It is readily available in the Bay Area. This tape has excellent response at the clock frequency of Tarbell standard.

Tapes with data on them will have the data side or sides Write tap knocked out.

Tarbell format tapes will be with what I call "phase up." Meaning: phased as if recorded on a J.C. Penney Co. Model #6536 with the Tarbell board strapped as recommended in the assembly manual. The need here is not obvious unless you are using some Panasonic or Lloyd cassette machines that record or play back phase down. (My son got a Sears machine that records phase down and plays phase up from a big bearded elf in a funny red suit.). If you are running a Tarbell cassette interface and you haven't bought the Penney's machine, buy one! All the difficulties that I had went away the minute mine was plugged in to replace a Panasonic I had been using.

So far as phasing is concerned we have not had enough experience with either Processor Technology's new "CUTS" board or IMSAI's MIO board. PTC's "cuts" board has been designed to be insensitive to phase so we shouldn't have a problem. When I know more about the MIO board, you'll read about it here. Those of you who are regularly working with cassettes and discover the whys and wherefores, please call me and share it.

Tapes should have handlettered information giving the recorder's index to start of record, end of record. This obviously will vary from user to user, but it is generally useful geographic information. Next the name of the program or data. Next the loaded memory limits, expressed in hex, so the label may look like:

002 - 009 "STARFUNK" 0000 - 4800

012 - 022 "BYTES MY MOTHER LOVED" 0000 - 12AF

027 - 099 "SUPERSYS SPILLDUMP" C0C0 - DFFF

Tapes without labels or with unreadable ones will be reused for something else.

Leave plenty of blank area between records. The TDK Audua C-60 is long enough to afford us lots of room and avoids confusion when your index is not the same as the label may show. For tapes in Tarbell format be sure to include two or three minutes of sync code so that it will be possible for the next user to adjust his sync potentiometer setting.

When making a copy of anything, load the copy that you have made. When in doubt, do it again. Make a copy as good as you would like to have it for your own use.

Cleanliness is next to having a tape that loads. Keep your greasy paws off the tape surface. If your machine tends to eat tape, borrow someone else's. Sardine oil, cracker crumbs, dandruff, eraser dust, and many other things likely to be found in the average household may inadvertently destroy the

work of genius. Please use care in handling the tapes.

For those of you intrepid enough to have once called in an attempt to get something from the library, please skip to the next paragraph. First, I do not have a Fortran of any kind, sort, style or description. Same for PL-1. Don't call me, I'll call you. Next, I neither steal, nor duplicate, software which is protected by copyright. I am a librarian, not a quick copy service. Next, I will not list, catalog, or describe what is in the library. If you know what you want, ask me and I will tell you if we have it. Being a pack rat of many years' standing, I will invariably take anything I know can be had for nothing whether I need it or not. Many of you are better at this than I am, and since there are four hundred of you and only one of me, I'll continue to pursue my hobby between phone calls. If a manufacturer makes low cost software available, please support them by purchasing some. You get a nice clean, readable copy of the documentation. Besides, if you can't get it to load and go, you can write a tear stained letter or openly cry over the telephone and someone may be sympathetic toward your cause, while a lowly library user must be happy with unreadable or incomplete documentation and gets no sympathy whatever he does. Lastly, I get what you give to the library. I constantly encourage everyone to contribute to the library, but some desirable materials never get into the library. If you can't get it from the library, but find another source for some particular thing, either put a copy in the library, or tell me where you were able to locate it. I'll pass the information along to the next fellow.

To get a cassette from the library, please call ahead so that I can verify that it is in the library and available. Then, you and I will set in a convenient time for you to drop by my place and pick it up. Since the cassette has a given value, and neither the club treasurer or myself do this for profit, please come bearing a TDK Audua C-60 cassette as "deposit" against the safe return of the club tape. I won't sell your tape, or take money of any nationality. A couple of the members who have found work have already seeded the library with blank tape and program tapes. You don't have to have money to play, and if your story is sad enough you can probably come out of one for nothing. And if heaven rains bounty on you, bear in mind we are trying to get tax exempt status, and your contribution may be deductible.

One last thing. Please respect the copyright law. You are specifically forbidden from making copies of many materials under the new laws. Several companies have produced software for commercial exploitation, and have protected its value by copyright and whereas these companies may choose not to litigate infringement of their copyright, it is their right to protect their property. Purchase these products from their rightful owners. There are, on the other hand, many programs in the public domain as a direct result of your labors and mine. As time goes on, there will be even more. Here in Silicon Valley we have the best of the best programmers and I have seen some really great stuff simply given away. Remember that the library is really a software exchange. Give a little. Take a little. Don't use our facilities to rip someone off.



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# BULLETIN BOARD

**ERRATA**—Volume 2, Issue 11-12, page 6 (VDM-1 modifications). Line 4 of the modification list should read: "Connect a jumper from pin 7 of IC 17 to pin 4 of IC 17."

**THE INDY BYTE CHASER**—Newsletter of the Indianapolis Small Systems Group (ISSG) covers activities of the group. Contact Keith Pieper, 54 Sherry Lane, Brownsburg, IN 46112 for meeting schedules and location. When writing, a stamped self addressed envelope is suggested.

**GULTON 1030 PRINTER TERMINAL**—RS 232, Univac print mechanism, operative NOW, replaced with new terminal. David Ingram, 800 Oak Grove Ave., P.O. Box 896, Menlo Park, CA 94025, telephone (415) 323-6164.

**ALTAIR 8800 Computer**, Sanyo VM4092 Video Monitor, Cherry keyboard, 20K Pro. Tech. RAM, ACS, Tarbell Cassette Interface, Proc. Tech. Video Interface, 3P+S I/O board Proc. Tech. ALS-8, 2KRO, beefed up power supply, mother board with all 16 edge connectors, listing of 115 basic programs, manuals, extra parts, past issues of *Byte*, *Interface*, *Homebrew Newsletters*, and other documentation. Complete system only. Retail value \$2659, I want \$2000 firm. Leaving town. D. Wier 673-6023, 9AM-6PM. 653-7836 after 6.

**Cyclops Camera**—Does anyone have a Cyclops camera and controller board? If so, I would like to discuss its operation with you. Call Eric in Livermore at 415-443-1851 (eves).

**TELETYPES**—Models 28 through 40, new or rebuilt, RO's, KSR's, ASR's. All available immediately. **NATIONAL TELETYPEWRITER CORP.**, 207 Newtown Rd., Plainview, NY 11803. Contact Joe Gibbons at 516-293-0444.

**SOL User Group**. If you own or have ordered **Processor Technology's SOL computer**, please send your name, address, phone number and ideas to Bill Burns, 4190 Maybell Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

**NORTHWEST INDIANA CLUB**—Now forming. For information contact David Kominiak, Computer Learning Exchange, 6637 Kennedy Ave., Hammond, Indiana 46323.

**SONOMA COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB**—Meeting first Tuesday of month at the L.O.A.P. CENTER, 8099 La Plaza, Cotati, CA 94928. Meeting time is 7:30 PM.

**SAN DIEGO—ELECTRONIC PRODUCT ASSOCIATES, INC.** 1157 Vega Street, San Diego, California 92110, 714-276-8911, announces the availability of the ALL NEW MICRO-68b Micro-computer. The MICRO-68b comes completely assembled with hex-keyboard, 6 digit LED display, 8K RAM, 1K PROM Monitor system, CRT/TTY/Audio Cassette interface. It is housed in a ruggedized aluminum cabinet with a 13 slot excorisor compatible mother board and 20 amp power supply. The MICRO-68b utilizes the 6800 microprocessor chip set now manufactured by Motorola, AML, Fairchild, Hitachi and Thompson CSF. The MICRO-68b lists for \$1878.00 and is available from stock.

**Amateur Radio Auction**—One of the largest amateur radio auction events will be held February 26, 1977 at the Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation cafeteria. Auction starting time is 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. for sellers to register and set up equipment. Door prizes, flea market, exciting auctioneers, and time to socialize too. Location is 3939 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Sponsored by the South Peninsula Amateur Radio Club—SPARK.

**CLUB LIBRARY**—Gordon French, club librarian, has lots of interesting material and is able to loan it to anyone with a definite need, but . . . *please adhere to the following:*

- ☆ Limit your telephone calls to the hours of 7PM to 9PM weekdays only. This is important. Gordon's phone number is (415) 325-4209 in Menlo Park.

- ☆ Be specific with your request and Gordon can probably help you—he cannot randomly review the contents of the library for you.

- ☆ No reproductions will be made of any materials.

- ☆ All materials loaned must be returned so they are available for others to use in the future.

**HOW TO GET THE NEWSLETTER**—Anyone interested in computers as a hobby may receive the *Newsletter* by sending a request to the Homebrew Computer Club Newsletter, P.O. Box 626, Mountain View, CA 94042. The *Newsletter* is distributed monthly at the club meetings and is also mailed to individuals who are unable to attend the meetings.

If you have an input to the *Newsletter*, send it in and it will be published as quickly as possible. However the editors cannot promise that everything sent will be published immediately. All manuscripts must be typed and carefully proofed. All listings and diagrams should be as clear and easy to read as possible.

The *Newsletter* is made possible by your donations. Please remember that we must pay for postage, labels and printing. Donations may be given to Ray Boaz at the club meetings or sent to the above address.

## SHOW & TELL

### Be a **SPEAKER** or **PANELIST** at the **FIRST WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE**

EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO PERSONAL & HOME COMPUTING

- Present a **TUTORIAL** for an absolute beginner, just starting to think about owning his own computer
  - Describe a **COMMERCIAL** or **HOMEBREWED SYSTEM** of interest to personal computing enthusiasts
  - Discuss the **DESIGN** or **IMPLEMENTATION** of **SOFTWARE** for home & hobby computers
  - Detail a **CURRENT** or **FORESEEABLE APPLICATION** of personal computers
  - Debate a **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE** in the realm of individual computing
- Or, suggest an exciting speaker or interesting topic, appropriate for the Computer Faire

ALSO

### EXHIBIT a **HOMEBREWED SYSTEM**

- Hardware, Software, or an Integrated System
- Prizes for the Best "Home Cooking" (just like the old county fairs)

## SEE & HEAR

### Attend the **FIRST WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE**, April 15-17, 1977, in San Francisco Civic Auditorium

- 7,000 to 10,000 people
- 100 Conference Presentations
- 200 Commercial & Homebrew Exhibitors
- Special-Interest Social Centers
- Banquets with nationally-known, present-world, & future-world speakers
- Tutorials for Beginners
- Esoterica for Experts

Co-Sponsors include amateur, professional, & educational groups.

### Some Conference Sections Being Planned:

- Personal Computers for Education associated with a University of California short-course
- Computers & Amateur Radio
- Computer Graphics on Home Computers
- Computer-Driven, & Computer-Assisted Music Systems
- Speech Synthesis Using Home Computers
- Microprogrammable Microprocessors for Hobbyists
- Program & Data Input via Optical Scanning
- Floppy Disc Systems for Personal Computers
- Computer Games: Alphanumeric & Graphic
- Computers & Systems for Very Small Businesses
- Personal Computers for the Physically Handicapped
- Personal Word-Processing Systems
- Software Design: Modularity & Portability
- Several Sections Concerning Standards
- Other Sections for Club Leaders, Editors, Organizers, etc.

### Get Your **free** Copy of the **Silicon Gulch Gazette**

- A tabloid newspaper for computer fanatics
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- Details about the *Proceedings* of the Computer Faire
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## Contents

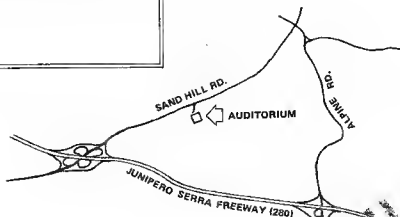
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## HOMEBREW COMPUTER CLUB MEETINGS

Where And When

The Homebrew Computer Club meets at 7PM at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center Auditorium. Dates scheduled for February are the 2nd and 16th, and for March the 2nd, 16th and 30th. The dates and the location are subject to change. If a change does occur, every effort will be made to provide advance notice in the Newsletter. □



## HOMEBREW COMPUTER CLUB NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 626  
Mountain View, CA 94042



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Michael J. Holley

Daly City  
CA 94015



# Homebrew

## Bulletin Board

### survey hcc

#### homebrew computer club

At the meeting January 19, 1977

This survey was taken during the Homebrew Computer Club regular meeting on January 19, 1977. Approximately 240 people attended the meeting. The survey shows a remarkable number of personal computers in use by the club with many systems running with 8K bytes or more of memory. Seventy-five percent of this group own computer systems. Projecting this percentage of computers in operation to the 1500 people that receive the Homebrew Computer Club NEWSLETTER would indicate 1125 computers owned by the group. There is plenty of room for error in this type of projecting but it is a very good indication of the investment of club members in personal computer products. □

### random data

by robert teiling

Personal and home computing continue to interest more and more people. The hobbyist clubs are expanding, more computer stores are opening, new products are being announced, magazines devoted to personal computers are increasing in number, and predictions are being made about where we are going. A few people are attempting to determine what has happened in the past two years and how many computers and computer people are out there.

HOME BREW COMPUTER CLUB  
NEWSLETTER  
P.O. Box 626  
Mountain View, CA 94042

NEWSLETTER

### hcc meetings

Homebrew Computer Club Meeting  
Schedule For Remainder of 1977

March 16 and 30  
April 15 and 29  
May 13 and 25  
June 8 and 22  
July 6 and 20  
August 3, 17 and 31  
September 14 and 28  
October 12 and 26  
November 9 and 23  
December 7 and 21

All dates are subject to change or cancellation. If a change does occur, advance notice will be published in the NEWSLETTER if time permits. □

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PLEASE CONSIDER THAT THE MINIMUM COST OF PROVIDING THE *NEWSLETTER*  
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FLEXIBILITY IN THE BUDGET, & EASE THE *NEWSLETTER* STAFF'S BURDEN. A  
SLIGHTLY LARGER DONATION WOULD REALLY BE APPRECIATED, SAY \$12, &  
THEN MAYBE WE COULD THINK ABOUT ADDITIONAL CLUB SERVICES.

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OPTIONAL DATA \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) I PLAN TO SUBMIT ARTICLE(S) TO THE *NEWSLETTER* AS FOLLOWS:

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) DURING 1977 I EXPECT TO PURCHASE PERSONAL COMPUTER EQUIPMENT  
AS FOLLOWS: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE *NEWSLETTER*? \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE EDITOR OF A COLUMN? ( ) Yes, ( ) No  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_